

14 MAR 1978

EUROPE-AFRICA

24

1. USSR: Comments on Izvestia attack on Churchill--In commenting on the 12 March attack on Churchill's speech in Izvestia (by Soviet historian Tarle), the US Military Attache in Moscow states that (a) the Soviets undoubtedly feel that they are too deeply committed in Iran to withdraw, and (b) the emphasis on Britain's aversion to war is less significant than the assertion that "in any case [Britain] cannot go to war within five years."

The US Charge in Moscow concurs in the above comments and, in addition, cites the contrast made by Tarle between the "invariably friendly" tradition of US-Soviet relations and the conflicts provoked by British aggression in past US-British relations. He considers this the strongest example to date of the different treatment currently accorded the US and Britain in the Soviet press. [REDACTED]

US requests modification of censorship procedure--Charge Kennan in Moscow has reported that the new form of Soviet censorship permits complete distortion of press dispatches without the correspondent's knowledge. After discussing the matter with US Press Bureau Chiefs, the State Department has directed Kennan to request that censorship be held to a minimum and that correspondents be permitted to discuss deletions with the censors. If Kennan's representations should fail and the Soviets should refuse at least to return to the system which prevailed before censorship functions were transferred to the Soviet Post Office, the US press will publicize the "blind censorship" in order to protect the reading public. [REDACTED]

2. AUSTRIA: Soviet "repatriation" missions--General Clark reports that the Soviet Command is "using every device" to prolong the stay of its repatriation mission in the US zone. Clark states that (a) the mission has had ample time

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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DIA,, OSD, DOS review(s) completed.

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to complete its work, (b) he has already granted it two extensions of time, and (c) intelligence and espionage work in the US zone represent "no small part" of its activities. Clark adds that McCreery and Bethouart, commanding the British and French zones, are experiencing the same difficulties with the Soviet repatriation missions in their areas.

Clark asks that he be authorized to require the Soviet mission to withdraw by 1 April, and thereafter to allow any new mission to reenter only for a limited time and for a specific purpose based on such new and concrete evidence regarding repatriation as may be submitted by Marshal Konev. [REDACTED]

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3. FRANCE: Bidault's concern over effects of Soviet wheat offer--In connection with the recent Soviet offer of 500,000 tons of wheat to France, Embassy Paris reports that Bidault is greatly concerned over its possible effect on internal politics. Coming as it does on top of the prompt Soviet agreement to submit the Spanish question to the Security Council, he believes the Communists will capitalize on it in the coming elections. Bidault stated that he had little faith in the "sincerity" of the offer, but that for "obvious reasons" the French Government must act as if they believed the Soviets were wholly sincere. [REDACTED]

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4. IRAN: Soviet intentions--Ambassador Murray reports that the Shah is torn by doubts of Premier Qavam's loyalty and is apprehensive of a Soviet blitzkrieg sweeping through the whole Near East before the UNO or the western powers could act to block it. Murray adds that the Soviets may be deploying their troops in Iran so as to surround Tehran from the west, north and east.

Embassy Moscow believes that Soviet troops are in Iran to obtain Soviet objectives by intimidation if possible, but by force if necessary. Soviet leaders

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believe that neither the US nor the British are prepared to put up military resistance, and they expect to gain their objectives before the UNO can take action. [REDACTED]

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FAR EAST

5. CHINA: Chinese Communists to receive US equipment-- General Marshall, the National Government and the Communists have agreed that the US should furnish some equipment and basic training to those Communist units that are to be integrated into the Chinese National Army. This agreement was made because the Communists feel that their troops are not on an equal status with the Nationalists and thus "would not be accepted without prejudice."

[REDACTED]

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THE AMERICAS

6. ARGENTINA: Naval aviation group desires to visit US-- The US Charge in Buenos Aires reports that the Argentine General Staff has requested US permission to send a group of naval officers to the US for the purpose of "bringing up to date" Argentine information on naval aviation. The Charge recommends that this request be granted, particularly since the Argentine Navy took a leading part in obtaining fair elections. However, the Charge suggests that any purchases of equipment by Argentina should await that country's fulfillment of pledges regarding Nazi elements. [REDACTED]

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